

[Instant random display of electronic file through machine-readable codes on printed documents]

Abstract of Disclosure

The present invention is a system and method for providing automated access to and display of electronic images stored in a database or in a local file/folder system. The system utilizes a machine-readable code on a document, referred to herein as an auto-identified document or one with an "autogram" since it stores its own file name in a symbol on the document*. The machine-readable symbol comprises encoded source data, wherein the source data comprises the file name. The machine-readable symbol is printed on the image as the image is printed. The presenter then scans the code via appropriate code scanning (e.g. bar code scanning) equipment, decodes the file name used to access the electronic image and display the image. In a preferred embodiment, a web browser program is launched on a local server on the client computer which has permission to access image files on any of the installed storage devices including magnetic and optical storage devices. A presenter, with thousands of hard copy documents, leafs to a single document, scans the bar code and the image is projected onto a wall or screen for an audience to view.* Emerging technologies allow the document to be identified through a characteristic image "signature" where the document is sampled by scanning a portion of it, converting the sample to a format common to the stored images (i.e. bmp) and matching the sample with a stored image in much the same way fingerprints are matched. Another emerging technology uses conductive ink to store the digital data directly on the document with no requirement to read data from another source to display an image of the document.

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